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(c) if the answers to the above two clauses are in the affirmative, whether the Government will be pleased to postpone the proposed reduction pending the report of the officer referred to in clause (a)?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. C. Basu Dev:—"Will the Government be pleased to institute an enquiry into these matters?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"The Government do not think it necessary."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Are the Government aware that in Bombay at least the Labour offices have been instructed to submit their report regarding the family budget of working and middle class families?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"I am aware of that."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of instructing the Labour Commissioner in Madras to report about their condition?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"No, Sir."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Does the Government consider it not important?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"It is important, but not possible."

Railways

Halting of the Mail train at Kasaragod.

* 503 Q.—Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state why the Mail train does not stop as usual 10 minutes for watering at Kasaragod?

A.—The Government have no information.

Khan Bahadur Mahumud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur:—"Will the Government kindly ascertain whether this practice is not causing much inconvenience to the public?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"It is a matter for the Government of India, to whom representations may be made."

Local Self-Government

Amount of motor vehicles tax collected during the last and the present quarter.

* 504 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount of motor vehicles taxation collected in each district in the last quarter and in the present quarter also;

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(b) the amount paid out of this taxation to the local bodies in each district in each of these two quarters; and

(c) whether the sums collected by the Government and the amounts paid to the local bodies have exceeded or fallen short of the estimates made at the time the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill was under consideration?

A.—(a) A statement[a] is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Three-sixteenths of the amounts shown in the appendix to G.O. No. 1081, L. & M., dated 28th March 1931 (copy [a] placed on the table of the House) was paid to the local bodies for each of the two quarters.

(c) The sums collected so far have fallen considerably short of the estimates made at the time when the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill was under consideration.

The amounts paid to local bodies for the first two quarters have been calculated on the basis of the original estimates, but local bodies have been warned to expect less in future.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"In view of the considerable shortage of collections, will the Government consider the desirability of repealing the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"No, Sir."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Does the Government expect to collect the full estimated amount before the end of the year?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"It is not possible to say now what will be the total amount collected before the end of the year."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"By how much has the collection fallen short of the estimate now?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"By about 50 per cent."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Will the Government investigate the reasons why the collections have been so small?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"No, Sir."

Mr. F. E. James:—"May I ask the hon. Minister whether the number of buses is not much larger in areas where the licence fees levied by local boards are not heavy?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I have no information."

Mr. F. E. James:—"Will the hon. Minister please collect the necessary information and consider possible plans whereby this grossly heavy burden upon the motor industry may be alleviated?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 468—471 infra.

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Representations have been made to Government by parties interested in this question. Government have called for information as to the income derived by local bodies from licence fees both last year and in the first half of the present year. After the information is collected, Government will examine it and find out to what extent the alleged heavy licence fees levied by district boards are responsible for reducing the number of buses and whether any relief can be given."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"Is the hon. Minister aware that there are still a large number of buses which have not taken out the motor licence?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I am not aware of it, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"When the collections have fallen down by fifty per cent., how do the Government propose to pay the local bodies?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"The amount collected will be distributed *pro rata* among the local bodies. The fall is due not to the heaviness of the tax but to various other economic factors."

Mr. F. E. James:—"Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the collection of the tax under the Motor Vehicles Act is being evaded owing to certain regulations under the Act? If so, will he tell the House what he proposes to do to examine the regulations with a view to removing those obstacles?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Here also various representations have been made to Government with regard to the hardship caused by certain regulations under the Act. The whole matter is under consideration by the Government. Some of the representatives of persons who are interested in the question will also be invited to put their views before the Government."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur:—"Will the Government be pleased to compensate the local bodies for the loss caused to them by the abolition of the tolls and by the payment of only a portion of what they were expecting from the motor taxation?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"There is no question of paying compensation as the Act provides that the amount collected under the Act should be distributed *pro rata* among the local bodies concerned."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Have not the local bodies begun to clamour for their due share?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Not yet; I am sure they realize the difficult situation."

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"If Government do not pay the local bodies what they have been expecting all along, how do they expect them to balance their budget?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"The local bodies are only in the same position as the Local Government."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"Do the Government realize that they have over-estimated the receipts at the time the Bill was passed?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I do not think Government over-estimated the income from this taxation. The difficulty is that they never expected this financial crisis when the Bill was framed."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"In view of the fact that the amount to be realized is not going to reach the anticipated figure and that the losses to the local bodies are due to the passing of this Act and the abolition of the tolls, what do the Government propose to do to help the local bodies to balance their budgets?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Local bodies are taking their own action — retrenchment of expenditure and so on."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Does the hon. Minister hold that the anticipated revenue has not been realized on account of the general depression or on account of certain defects in the Act itself?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I have already answered that question."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Having regard to the fact that this depression began as early as 1929, how can that be a reason for the motor tax collections falling short of the estimates which were framed only recently?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I don't admit that the depression began in 1929."

Mr. Yakub Hasan:—"Considering that the Act has proved so disastrous, will the Government take steps to repeal it?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"The Act has not proved disastrous. On the other hand, it has proved beneficial to agriculturists."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"As the local bodies are not able to balance their budgets, will the Government be pleased to reduce the amounts of the opening and closing balances of local bodies?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"It is the business of local bodies to look to that."